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SUBJ: RECOMMENDATION FOR OFFICIAL VISIT BY PRIME MINISTER
BANDARANAIKE

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. I RECOMMEND THAT PRESIDENT
FORD INVITE PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE FOR
OFFICIAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON DURING EARLY 1976. SUCH
A VISIT WOULD BE IN US INTEREST BECAUSE OF MRS.
BANDARANAIKE'S INFLUENTIAL ROLE AS HOSTESS FOR NON-
ALIGNED SUMMIT MEETING NEXT YEAR AND BECAUSE IT WOULD
REINFORCE HER GOVERNMENT'S GENERALLY MODERATE
STANCE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. DISCUSSIONS WITH
PRESIDENT WOULD ENABLE HIM, IN ADVANCE
OF SUMMIT MEETING, TO CONVEY USG'S
VIEWS AS TO HOW DIFFERENCES BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CAN BE WORKED OUT THROUGH CONSTRUCTIVE
DIALOGUE ON INDIVIDUAL ISSUES. VISIT WOULD ALSO
UNDERSCORE OUR APPRECIATION FOR GSL'S SENSITIVITY
IN HANDLING BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES OF
INTEREST TO US AND IN PERMITTING US NAVAL VESSELS
TO CALL AT COLOMBO. IT WOULD SIGNIFY OUR RECOGNITION
OF MRS BANDARANAIKE AS ONE OF MOST IMPORTANT WOMEN
IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, WOULD RECONFIRM HER NON-
ALIGNMENT BY BALANCING OFF HER EARLIER VISITS TO USSR
AND PRC AND WOULD DEMONSTRATE CONTINUED US INTEREST
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IN SOUTH ASIA AND INDIAN OCEAN REGION. INVITATION

WOULD ALSO BE TRIBUTE TO SRI LANKA'S POSITION AS ONE OF THE FEW DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH HAS BEEN ABLE TO MAINTAIN A WORKING DEMOCRACY. END SUMMARY.

2. I RECOMMEND THAT PRESIDENT FORD INVITE PRIME MINISTER SIRIMAVO BANDARANAIKE TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON SOMETIME IN EARLY 1976. IN MY JUDGMENT SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE VERY MUCH IN THE US INTEREST FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

3. AS HOSTESS FOR THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN COLOMBO IN AUG 1976, MRS BANDARANAIKE WILL REPRESENT THE LEADERSHIP OF THE NON-ALIGNED AND DEVELOPING WORLD. SHE TAKES A RELATIVELY MODERATE APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND DISAGREES WITH THE TENDENCY OF SOME NON-ALIGNED MILITANTS TO BLAME THE US FOR THE WORLD'S ILLS AND TO USE INTERNATIONAL FORUMS TO RAILROAD THROUGH UNREALISTIC OR UNBALANCED RESOLUTIONS. SRI LANKA'S BALANCED APPROACH WAS HIGHLIGHTED THIS WEEK AT THE LIME NON-ALIGNED MEETING, WHERE SRI LANKA WAS ONE OF FEW COUNTRIES TO SUPPORT OBSERVER STATUS FOR SOUTH KOREA AS WELL AS NORTH KOREA. AS HOST OF 1976 SUMMIT, SRI LANKA WILL SUCCEED ALGERIA AS CHAIRMAN OF COORDINATING SECRETARIAT FOR NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AND GSL THEREFORE WILL BE IN POSITION TO EXERT MODERATING INFLUENCE FOR SEVERAL YEARS TO COME.

4. THE PRESIDENT'S INVITATION WOULD AFFIRM HIS EXPRESSED DESIRE TO ESTABLISH A DIALOGUE WITH DEVELOPING NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES ON A BASIS OF MODERATION AND CONSULTATION AND HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH HER SHOULD INFLUENCE THE MANNER IN WHICH HER GOVT HANDLES ISSUES AT NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT. MRS BANDARANAIKE, ON HER PART, PLACES VERY GREAT STORE IN PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER WORLD LEADERS. DURING HIS APRIL 1975 VISIT HERE, SHE TOLD SECRETARY OF TREASURY SIMON THAT SHE WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO MEET PRESIDENT FORD (COLOMBO 1270). I AM CONVINCED
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THAT THE CHEMISTRY OF THE RELATIONSHIP WOULD BE GOOD AND THAT A VISIT WOULD PAY DIVIDENDS FAR IN EXCESS OF TIME AND EFFORT EXPENDED. IT WOULD ALSO SERVE TO REINFORCE HER OWN NON-ALIGNED POSITION BY BALANCING HER PREVIOUS OFFICIAL VISITS TO THE USSR AND PRC.

5. THE SRI LANKA GOVT HAS DEMONSTRATED SENSITIVITY TO US INTERESTS BY MINIMIZING PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON

AREAS OF NON-AGREEMENT, AND BY ACCOMMODATING ITSELF TO US REQUIREMENTS. THIS HAS BEEN RECENTLY DEMONSTRATED BY SRI LANKA'S MUTED REACTION TO OUR DECISION TO EXPAND DIEGO GARCIA AND BY THE GSL'S CONTINUED WILLINGNESS TO PERMIT US NAVAL VESSELS TO CALL AT COLOMBO. (A CRUISER AND DESTROYER FROM PACIFIC FLEET TASK FORCE ARRIVE HERE TOMORROW.) AN INVITATION WOULD DEMONSTRATE OUR APPRECIATION OF THE GSL'S APPROACH TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP AND WOULD REINFORCE OUR CURRENT GOOD RELATIONS.

6. PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT WOULD ALSO INDICATE US APPRECIATION OF IMPORTANT ROLE WOMEN ARE PLAYING IN TODAY'S WORLD AND OUR RECONGNITION OF MRS BANDARANA-NAIKE AS THE WORLDS FIRST WOMAN PRIME MINISTER. SHE HAS HELD POWER DURING HER TWO GOVTS FOR MORE THAN TEN YEARS AND IS LIKELY TO REMAIN A POLI-TICAL FORCE IN SRI LANKA IN FUTURE.

7. FINALLY, AN INVITATION WOULD DEMONSTRATE OUR APPRECIATION OF THE FACT THAT SRI LANKA HAS BEEN ABLE TO MAINTAIN ITS DEMOCRATIC TRADITIONS, HOWEVER IMPERFECTLY, SINCE ITS INDEPENDENCE. WITH DEMOCRACY APPARENTLY RECEDING IN THIS PART OF WORLD, AN INVITA-TION TO MRS BANDARANAIKE WOULD BE RECOGNIZED AS A TRIBUTE TO ABILITY OF THIS SMALL ASIAN NATION TO MAINTAIN FREE ELECTIONS AND REPRESENTATIVE GOVERN-MENT. AT SAME TIME IT WOULD DEMONSTRATE CONTINUING US INTEREST IN SOUTH ASIA AND INDIAN OCEAN REGION.

8. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION DURING PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT MIGHT INCLUDE: WAYS TO PROMOTE COOPERATION
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BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUN-TRIES, INCLUDING PROSPECTS FOR A MORE EQUITABLE AND STABLE WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER; OUR CONCERNS OVER EXCESSES OF THE MAJORITY IN US AND NON-ALIGNED FORUMS; US VIEWS ON TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS, AS WELL AS MRS BANDARANAIKE'S VIEWS WITH REGARD TO SOUTH AND EAST ASIA; THE INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE PROPOSAL WHICH PRIME MINISTER PUT FORWARD AT 1971 UNGA SESSION; REVIEW OF OUR GENERALLY GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS.

9. I SUGGEST THAT A VISIT BE SCHEDULED DURING FEB-MAY 1976 TIME PERIOD. THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO VISIT US ON EVE OF SUMMIT MEETING IN AUG. VISIT FOLLOWING

THE SUMMIT WOULD BE LESS SATISFACTORY BECAUSE OF
GENERALLY CROWDED OFFICIAL SCHEDULES IN WASHINGTON
IN SEPT AND OCT, BECAUSE OF US PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTION CAMPAIGN, AND BECAUSE ELECTIONS IN SRI LANKA
ARE SCHEDULED FOR SPRING OF 1977. IT, OF COURSE
IS POSSIBLE THAT PRIME MINISTER MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO
MAKE TRIP IN PERIOD SUGGESTED BUT WE WOULD HAVE
GAINED CONSIDERABLE CAPITAL BY MAKING GESTURE OF
EXTENDING INVITATION.

10. I KNOW DEPT AND WHITE HOUSE MUST WEIGH
MANY FACTORS IN DECIDING VISITS FOR NEXT YEAR.
I BELIEVE MRS BANDARANAIKE'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON
WOULD STRONGLY SUPPORT US POLICIES TOWARD THE NON-
ALIGNED COUNTRIES, WOULD DEMONSTRATE CONTINUED
AMERICAN INTEREST IN SOUTH ASIA, AND WOULD STRENGTHEN
OUR RELATIONS WITH DEMOCRATIC SRI LANKA. I THERE-
FORE HOPE I CAN BE AUTHORIZED SOON TO EXTEND INVITATION
TO PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE FOR VISIT IN EARLY
1976.
VAN HOLLEN

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